

R. Norden F.R.S. 810. L. 3.

DRAWINGS *489*

O F

584. L. 6
g. 968.

SOME RUINS

AND

COLOSSAL STATUES

AT

THEBES IN EGYPT,

with an account of the same

IN A LETTER

TO

THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

MDCCLXI.

T O
MARTIN FOLKES Esq;
P R E S I D E N T,
And to the Rest of the
COUNCIL and FELLOWS
O F T H E
Royal Society of London,
F O R I M P R O V I N G
N A T U R A L K N O W L E D G E,



GENTLEMEN,

THE Plates I have the honour to lay before you, are taken from four of the Drawings, which I made about four years since, by the command of His Majesty the King of *Denmark*, my Gracious and Royal Master, from some of the remains of antiquity, that are still found dispers'd, almost all over the kingdom of *Egypt*.

AND as these may possibly be of use to illustrate some passages in antient authors, who have taken notice of the Statue of *Memnon*; I have subjoined most of those passages, to which I have added, what I have met with in modern books also, relating to the same subject; together with an extract from my own journal, of what I observ'd on the spot, and wrote down there immediately after I had taken the drawings, for the more ready understanding the same.

I PRESENT them to you, Gentlemen, as to persons of the most extensive knowledge and learning, thereby qualified to judge of all works of antiquity, to compare one with another the diverse writings of the antients, and to correct the

several errors and unaccuracies, to which they, as well as the moderns may have been subject.

I LAY claim my self to no erudition, and desire you will only look upon what I say, as the report of a faithful traveller, and of one who pretends to no more, than having seen with some care, and related honestly what he has seen.

THE three first Drawings were executed upon the place just as you see them: I have not since been willing so much as to finish them; much less would I have ventured to add any thing by way of ornament or imbellishment. The last Drawing which exhibits the plan, was made since I came away, but from the sketch and measures I took also upon the spot, when I was at *Thebes*.

THE marvellous and the agreeable which frequently recommend works to the multitude, but which at the same time destroy the true fruit that should be gathered from relations of this sort, have always appeared to me unworthy of a traveller; and more particularly of one who treats of places so far distant, that it is very difficult for others to examine into the truth of his reports: for this reason, I am here desirous to assure my readers, that in whatever I may hereafter have occasion to publish of my observations on the places I have seen, it is my fix'd resolution to pursue no other rule, than that of delivering with truth and simplicity, such accounts as I am able to give of those places, and of the things I have there thought best deserving to be taken notice of.

It is upon this account only, that I have thought these few Drawings worthy to be laid before you: and I flatter my self, Gentlemen, that you will accept them as a small token of my sincere respect, and of my thankfulness for the honour you have been pleased to do me, in admitting me a member of your Illustrious Society; being with great truth,

GENTLEMEN,

*London, the 7th of
January 1741.*

Your most Humble

and most Obedient Servant,

F. L. NORDEN.

Passages from ancient and modern Authors, referred to in the foregoing Letter.

STRABO *lib. 17. pag. 816.*

HIC cum duo Colossi essent de solido lapide inter se propinqui, alter adhuc extat, alterius vero superiores a sede partes corruerunt, terræ (ut fama est) motu.

CREDITUM etiam est, semel quotidie sonitum quendam veluti ictus haud magni edi a parte, quæ in sede ac basi remansit.

IPSE cum Ælio Gallo adesset, & cum reliqua multitudine amicorum, ac militum, qui cum eo erant, circiter horam primam sonitum audiui : utrum a basi, sive a Colosso, an vero ab eam circumstantium aliquo editus fuerit, non habeo affirmare : cum propter incertitudinem causæ quidvis potius credere subeat, quam ex lapidibus sic compositis sonum edi.

PLINIUS *lib. 36. cap. 7.*

NON absimilis illi narratur in Thebis delubro Serapis, ut putant Memnonis statuæ dicatus : quem quotidiano Solis ortu contactum radiis crepare dicunt.

TACITUS *Annal. lib. 2. cap. 61.*

COETERUM Germanicus aliis quoque miraculis intendit animum, quorum præcipua fuere Memnonis saxeæ effigies, ubi radiis Solis icta est vocalem sonum reddens.

PAUSANIAS *Attic. cap. 42.*

EUM certe in fabricandis muris ab Apolline adjutum Megarenses affirmant, atque eum de quo dixi lapidem ubi citharam deposuit, pro testimonio habent. Reddit enim, calculo si quis eam percusserit, eundem quem pulsæ fides sonum : quæ mihi res plane admirabilis visa est : quanquam Colossus qui Thebis Ægyptiis est trans Nilum, non longe ab eo loco, quæ Syringes appellantur, majore utique cum admiratione spectavi.

STATUA ibi est sedentis hominis ; eam multi Memnonis nominant : quem ex Æthiopia in Ægyptum venisse, ac Susas etiam usque penetrasse tradunt. At ipsi Thebani Memnonem esse negant, nam Phamenophem fuisse indigenam hominem dicunt. Audiui etiam qui Sesostris illam statuam esse dicere : eam Cambyzes diffidit : & nunc etiam superior pars a vertice ad medium truncum humi neglecta

neglecta jacet : reliquum adhuc sedere videtur, ac quotidie sub ipsum Solis ortum, sonum edit, qualem vel citharæ vel lyræ nervi, si forte dum tenduntur rumpantur.

PHILOSTRATUS *de vita Apollonii, lib. 6. cap. 3.*

LOCUM enim ubi templum fundatum fuerat, antiquo foro similem dicunt esse. Extant ejusmodi fora quædam in vetustissimis civitatibus, ubi & columnarum visuntur fragmenta, & parietum quædam vestigia. Præterea sedes & limina & Mercurii simulachra, partim manu, partim vetustate consumpta, illic etiam conspici dicunt. Ipsius vero Memnonis statua adolescentis impuberis imaginem referens, ad Solis radios conversa est. Est autem ex nigro lapide fabricata, atque utroque pede solum attingens juxta Dædali statuariam artem : erectæ autem manus sedi innituntur hominis surgere volentis similitudinem exprimentes.——Cum vero Solis radius statuam attingeret (id autem circa solis ortum evenire perhibent) tum vero supra modum admirabilis visa est. Tunc enim statuam loqui perhibent, ubi primum Solis radius ad ejus os pervenit.

PHILOSTRATUS *Iconum lib. 1.*

IPSE autem Memnon in nigrum transformatus est in Æthiopia lapidem, & figuram quidem sedentis : speciem vero illam puto, & solis radii statuam petunt. Sol enim Memnonis os veluti plectro percutiens, inde vocem elidere, loquacique sophismate invento diem solari videtur.

LUCIANI *Toxaris seu amicitia.*

MEMNONEM autem vocem edere exoriente Sole.

LUCIANI *Philopseudes.*

QUUM in Ægypto versarer adhuc adolescens, a parte videlicet doctrinæ gratia transmissus, cupiebam navigio profectus in Coptum, illinc adiens Memnonem, miraculum illud audire, eum videlicet sonum reddentem ad orientem Solem. Illum igitur audiui non hoc vulgari modo quo audiunt alii sonum quempiam inanem, sed mihi oracula etiam edidit Memnon ipse aperto ore septem versibus : quod nisi esset supervacaneum, ipsos vobis versus recenserem.

TZETZES *Chiliad 6. Hist. 64.*

In patriam autem relatus, sepultus est domi.

Et columna huic fuit rubri varii lapidis

Fabrefacta, lætum autem die mittit cantum,

Velut lætatus matris præsentia.

Noctu autem flebile quoddam contra canit carmen.

DIONY-

DIONYSII *Periegesis*. v. 249.

Thebas præscas centum portas habentes, ubi resonans
Memnon exorientem suam salutat Auroram.

JUVENALIS *Sat.* 15.

Dimidio magicæ resonant ubi Memnone chordæ.

VANSLEB *Relation d'un Voyage d'Egypte*, pag. 410. where he gives the following Remark from *Father Portais*.

A UNE lieue deçà il y a une ancienne ville appelée *Habu*, ou l'on voit aussi plusieurs belles curiosités, & entre autre des momies. On y decouvre de fort loing 2 statues, l'une d'un homme, & l'autre d'une femme, les gens du pais appellent celle la *Sciama* & celle-ci *Fama*: elles paroissent estre pour le moins, aussi grandes que *l'Abulhon* ou le *Sphinx* qui est vis a vis du *Cayre*. Prés de ce lieu il y a un village ou l'on decouvre du *Nil* deux statues, qui paroissent si nouvelles, qu'à les voir on diroit, que l'ouvrier vient de les achever.

MAILLET *Descript. de l'Egypte*, lettre 8^{me}, speaking of *Thebes*;

PERSONNE n'ignore que c'étoit dans cette ville que se voyoit cette celebre statue de *Memnon* dont il est tant parlé dans l'histoire. Quoiqu'il en soit il ne reste pas plus de traces de ce Colosse que *Cambyse* fit dit on mettre en pièces.

Memoires des Missions de la Compagnie de Jesus dans le Levant, tom. 5^{me}.

PLAN d'un ouvrage sur *l'Egypte* ancienne & moderne, par le *Pere Sicard*, Chap. XI.

Au couchant du Nil.

3. LES deux Colosses, dont parle *Strabon*, chargez d'Inscriptions *Grecques* & *Latines*.

4. RESTES du Palais de *Memnon* & sa statue colossale.

ESTAMPES.

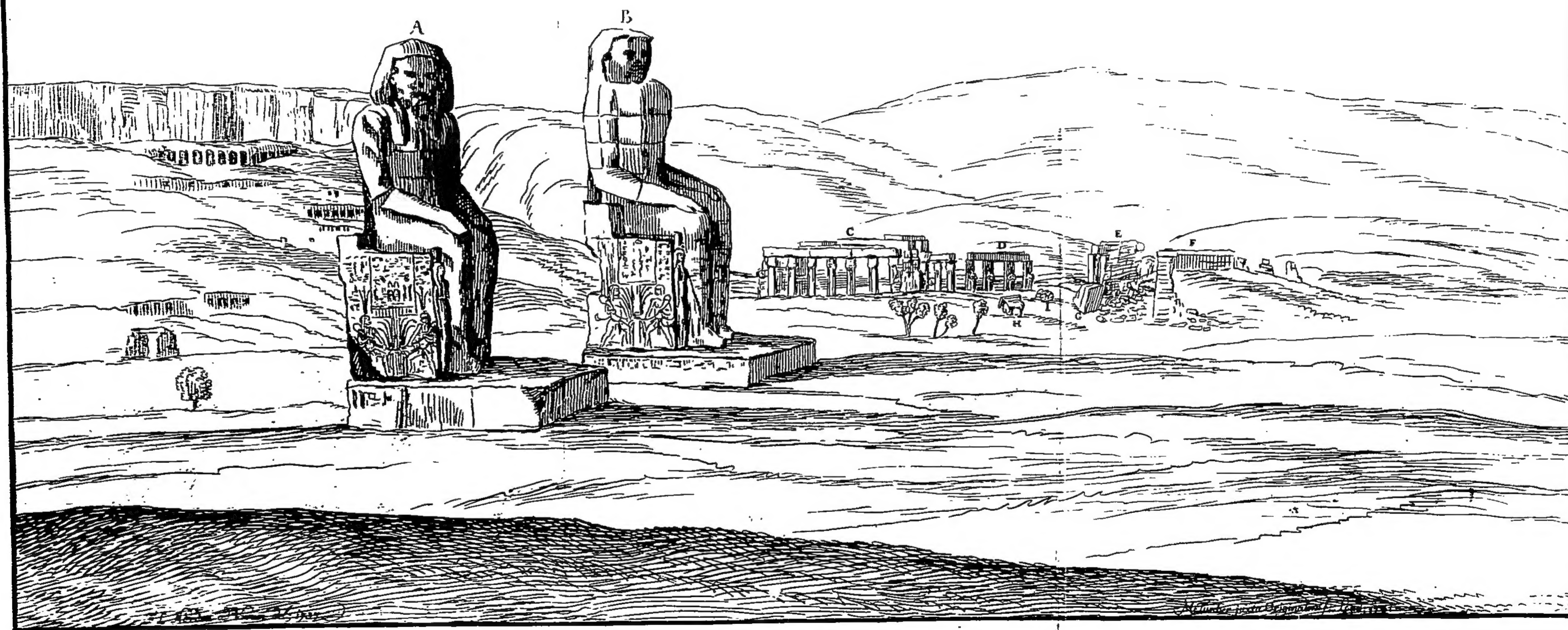
PLAN des deux Colosses au couchant du palais de *Memnon*, & de sa statue.

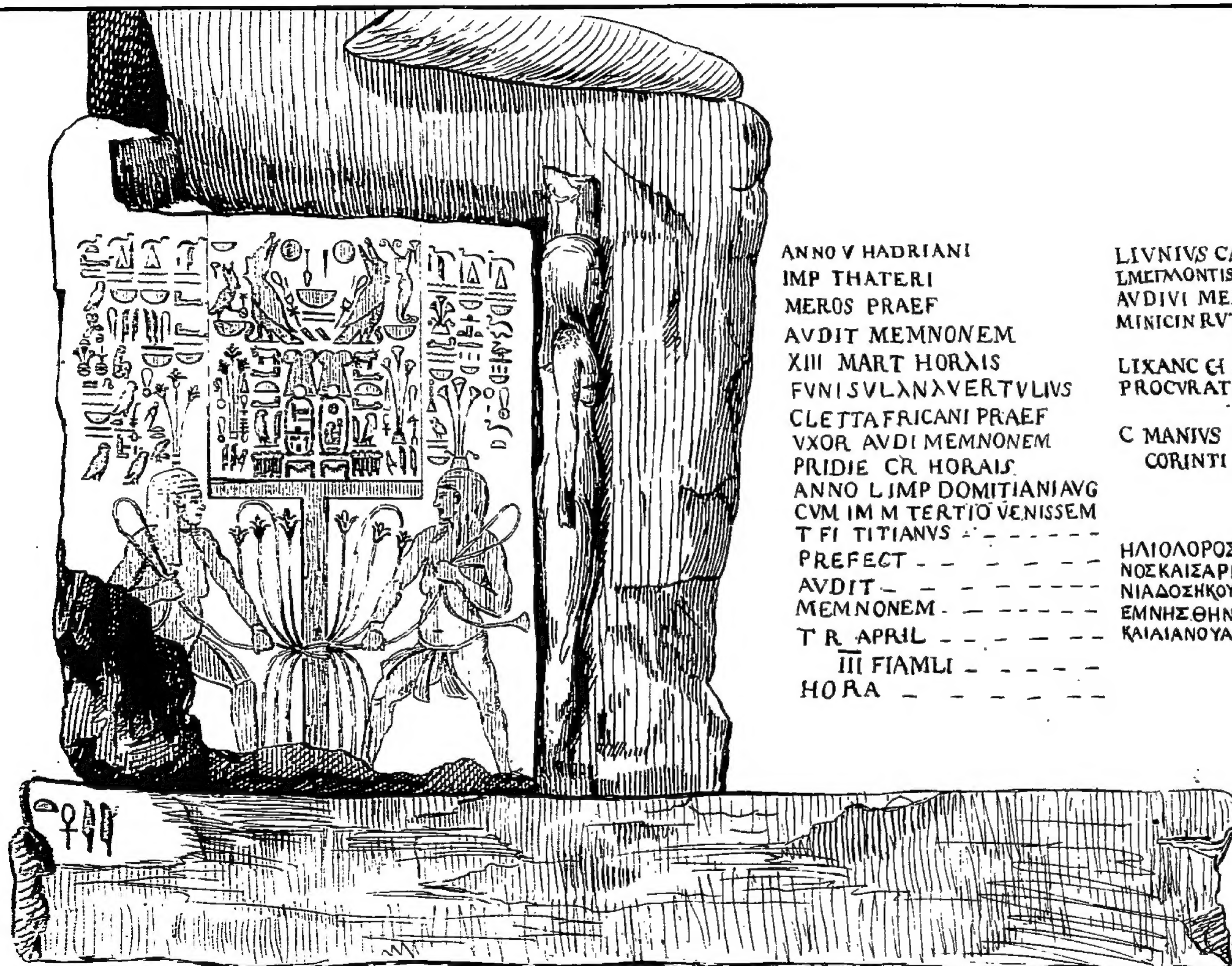
TOM.

THEBES.

———— Sans parler des temples de *Venus* & de *Memnon*, des galeries pleines de hieroglyphes, et des colonnes, il y a des choses que l'on peut dire être uniques dans le monde; scavoir les sepulchres des Rois de *Thebes*, & trois statues colossales, les deux premieres dont a tant parlé *Strabon* sont remplies d'une vingtaine d'inscriptions soit *Grecques* soit *Latines*: la troisième est la statuë du Roi *Memnon*, qui, selon la tradition des anciens *Egyptiens*, rendoit un son au lever du soleil.

Extrait





ANNO V HADRIANI
IMP THATERI
MEROS PRAEF
AVDIT MEMNONEM
XIII MART HORLIS
FVNISVLANAVERTVLIVS
CLETIAFRICANI PRAEF
VXOR AVDI MEMNONEM
PRIDIE CR HORALS
ANNO L IMP DOMITIANI AVG
CVM IM M TERTIO VENISSEM
T FI TITIANVS - - - - -
PREFECT - - - - -
AVDIT - - - - -
MEMNONEM - - - - -
T R APRIL - - - - -
III FIAMLI - - - - -
HORA - - - - -

LIVNIUS CALVINVS
LMEIMONTIS BERINI
AVDIVI MEMNONEM CV
MINICIN RVT - - - - -

LIXANC G LIBERTVS
PROCVRATOR VSIACVS

C MANIVS HANIOCHVS
CORINTI - - - - -

CLAVDIVS MAXIMVS
LEG XXII AVDI
MEMNONEM HORAI
..CAMILIVS - - - - -
..HORA PRIMA - - - - -
..SIMIS AVDIVI - - - - -
..MEMNONIS - - - - -

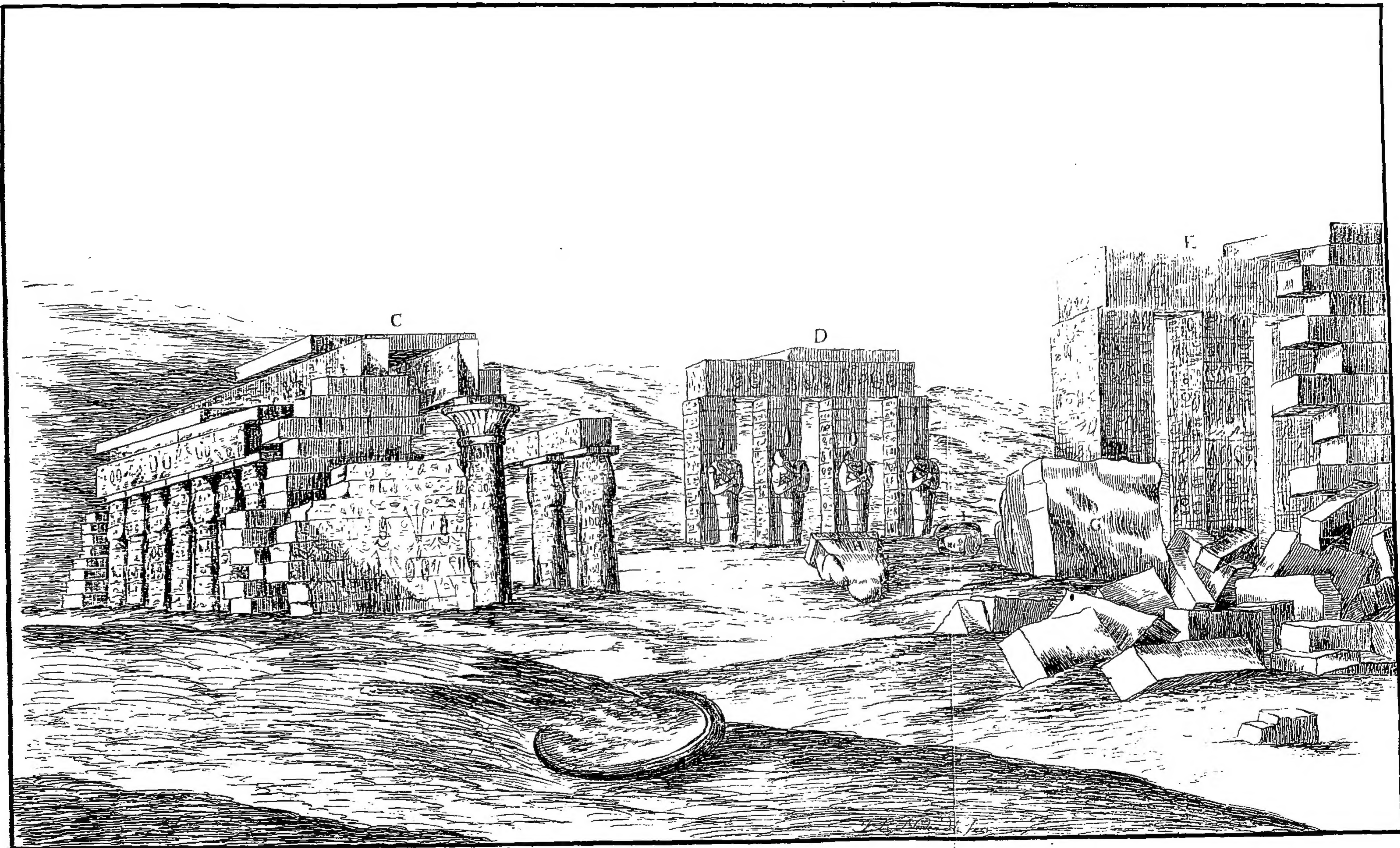
TETRONIVS
PRAEF - - - - -

ΗΛΙΟΛΟΡΟΣΤΗΝΩ
ΝΟΣΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣΠΑ
ΝΙΑΔΟΣΗΚΟΥΖΑΔΡΑΙ
ΕΜΝΗΣΘΗΝΤΗΩΝΟΣ
ΚΑΙΑΙΑΝΟΥΑΔΕΛΟΣΗ

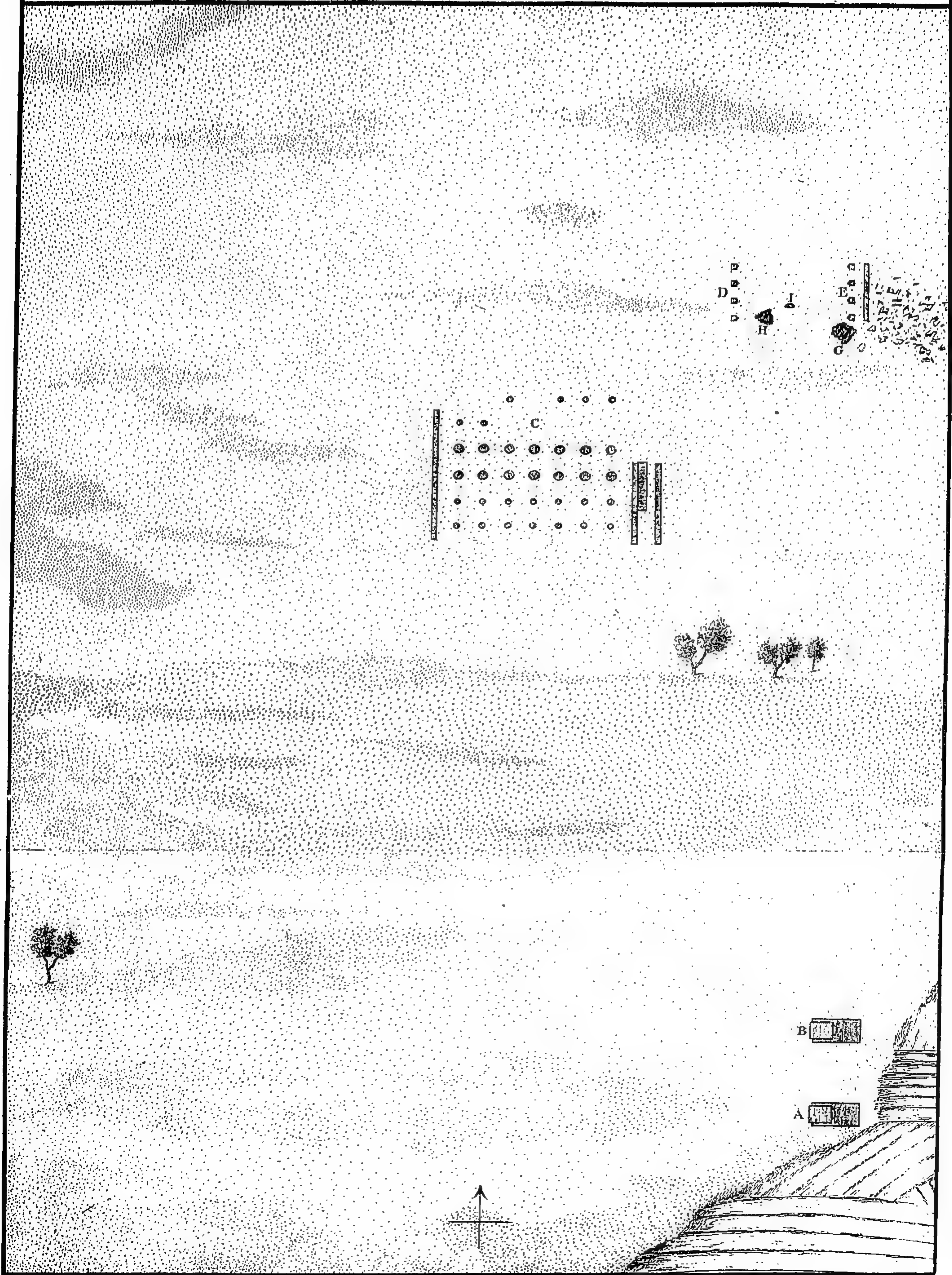
HORAM CVM PRIMAM CVMQVE
HORAM SOLES FECVNDAM
PROLATA OCEANO LVMINANT
ALMA DIES
VOX AVDITA MIHI EST TER BENE
MEMNONIA

F. L. Nodding del. 1737

M. Tischer juxta Originalenf. Londini 1741



A scale of 1000 Danish Feet.



F. L. Norden delin.

Leone fecit.

According to Act of Parliament

Extract from my own Journal, containing part of what passed on the 12th of December 1737, N. S. being the 25th day since my departure from Grand Cairo.

LAST night about sun-set, we had made fast on the western shore of the Nile, over-against *Luxorene*, accounted distant from *Cairo*, 135 French leagues: and this morning at break of day, I got out to see if there were any remains of the ancient city of *Thebes*, yet to be met with on this side the river. I presently perceived two Colossal Figures, which I at first took for those describ'd by *Strabo*; tho' I had soon after reason to believe the statues mentioned by that Author, were others I afterwards met with.

I THEN returned to the vessel for my arms, and such company as were willing to go with me, which the *Reys*, or master of the vessel, no sooner perceived but he began to do all he could to prevent our design. He first would have frightened us with notions of danger, but when he saw no body attended to his representations of that sort, he had recourse to his most pressing argument, which was swearing that if we all went on shore, he would go away with the boat, and leave us to shift as we could. I had him told we had taken our resolution, and that if he dar'd to leave us, we should certainly be able to come up with him again, when he must expect to pay dearly for his insolence. When this fail'd, he began to pray and beg of us not to go for his sake; for, said he, if you are so happy as to escape, you will however expose me to the utmost danger, for if I am ever forced to land here again, I shall certainly be murder'd for having brought you hither, from whence the inhabitants will be assur'd you have carried off the hidden treasures. I had before heard so much of this sort of stuff, as to be very little moved by it; besides that I grew solicitous to set out, that I might have the more time on shore. My *Fanisary* also, who thought himself more privileged to talk than the rest, seemed pleased with my resolution, began to threaten and talk big to the *Reys*, and presently jump'd on shore with me; the rest of the company and my servants immediately followed. We travers'd the plain, directing our steps towards the two Colossal Figures, which were not above a league off, if we could have gone directly to them; but we found the grounds so divided by channels,

B

and.

and so covered with *Turkish* corn, and were forced to take so many turns, that three hours were spent, before I got near enough to the statues to take my first Drawing of them. As soon as I had finish'd that, I came up to them as near as was necessary to draw the Hieroglyphical Figures that are cut on one side of the stone, upon which one of the Colossal Statues is represented as sitting, and I at the same time copied some of the *Latin* Inscriptions, and one of the *Greek* ones, with which the legs and part of the breasts of both the Figures are almost cover'd.

WHEN we first came on shore we saw nobody, either near or at a distance; but I had not finish'd my first Drawing when we were already surrounded with above fifty *Arabs*, who, at first only saluted us, and seemed under some surprise; but were most of all troublesome to me with their curiosity to find what I was doing. When they had passed about half an hour in this manner, they began to ask for the *Backsch*, that is for money, as all the *Arabs* ordinarily do: we thought it necessary to refuse them, as the complying might only have drawn on greater inconveniencies. They then grew very noisy and insolent, whilst I follow'd my Drawing as close as I could; leaving the Reverend Father Missionaries to appease them, and the servants to cavil as well as they were able, while the *Janisary*, who had a loud voice and a heavy staff, supported me by his bawling and threats, taking care however not really to strike any of the people he was wrangling with. I measured as far as I could reach of the Colossal Figures with a pole, and gathered their whole heights by their shadows. While I was here, arrived a man on horseback, preceded by another carrying a long pike, to whom the *Arabs* gave the title of *Sheik Arab*; he came up with a stern countenance, and asked the *Jew* servant what we did here, and who had given us leave. The *Jew*, who was as insolent as himself, returned a rough answer, asking by what authority he enquired; and one word drawing on another, things went so high, that the *Sheik* declared if we did not go off instantly, he would drive us away by force: upon which the *Janisary* went up to him, and told him, as in confidence, that he should be careful what he did, since we were so well provided with fire-arms, and so good at the use of them, that any such attempt might happen to cost him his life. This discourse seemed to have its effect, and the *Sheik* was some time silent; he nevertheless presently returned to the charge, and threatened, that if we did not retire, he would burn our boat, and plunder all that was in it. The *Janisary* still persisted in his threats, and finding the other not so resolute as he would have appeared, went on swearing in a terrible manner, that if he attempted the least insult, himself would be the man should kill him like a dog. At this the *Sheik* seemed to smile, but wish'd us a good day, and went off with all the people after him, leaving

leaving us however in some uncertainty, if he was not gone to the boat, or to lie in wait for us at our return ; tho' in the main very well pleased to be rid of so troublesome a company. I had in the mean time finish'd my measures of the two Great Statues, after which we went on towards the ruins that lie to the north of the figures, of which I also made the general Drawing, and took such dimensions as I thought necessary for the laying down the Plan, &c.

Remarks, which I made, and wrote down on the Place, for the better understanding of the Drawings.

The First PLATE.

A BOUT a league from the western shore of the *Nile*, where the plain begins to rise with dry burning sand, which slopes upward for a quarter of a league further west, to the foot of the mountains, dividing *Egypt* from *Lybia* ; are situated the two sitting Colossal Figures, mark'd A and B.

THEY face to the east, and northward from them at the distance of 200 paces are the Ruins, and overturned Colossal Statues mark'd C, D, E, F, G, H, I, of which more will be said in the observations on the third Plate.

THE *Nile* passes eastward, and about half a league to the southward are more Ruins both ancient and modern, the latter are call'd by the name of *Medinet-Habou*, and the former were part of the old city of *Thebes*.

THE two great Colossal Figures A and B, are each in height near * 50 *Danish* feet, from the bases of the pedestals to the top of the heads, which measure I determined from their shadows ; but as from the sole of the foot of one of the figures to just below the knee, I found by my pole 15 feet ; it should follow, from the ordinary proportion of a man, that their height is about 52 feet with the pedestals.

THE almost cubical stones on which they sit, are 15 feet in height, and as much in breadth, taking in the *Isiac* Figures that serve for ornaments at the two foremost corners of each. Behind, those stones are a foot and a half higher.

* The *Danish* foot is larger than the *English*, in the proportion nearly of 103 to 100.

THE pedestals are 5 foot high, 36 and a half long, and 19 and a half wide.

THE distance between the two Statues is 21 ordinary paces.

THE Statues themselves are made of several blocks of a sandy sort of stone, taken most probably from some of the Grotts, which appear very numerous in the neighbouring mountains.

THEIR breasts and legs are covered with a vast number of *Greek* and *Latin* inscriptions, grav'd in the time of the *Romans*.

THE seats or chairs on which they seem to sit, are covered behind and on each side with Hieroglyphical Figures, which in their general disposition are much alike, but differ in the particular composition of the characters.

THESE seats, which appeared to me each of one piece, seem of the same sort of stone as the Statues, though somewhat more brown and hard.

THE two *Isiac* Figures before mentioned, which finish the foremost corners of both seats, appeared to me much whiter and of a finer grain than the rest; which might make one suspect, that though adjusted to the old *Egyptian* taste, they may have been carved long since the building of the Colossal Statues themselves.

THE Pedestals are yet harder and browner than the seats, they are inscribed with only one line of Hieroglyphicks, which has also been much defac'd by the injury of time, and the violence that has been used.

THE bodies of the Colossal Figures have suffered nothing from the hand of man; and all disfigur'd as they are, do not appear to have receiv'd a single stroke; it is Time only that has defac'd them and wore away their extreme parts.

The Second P L A T E

GIVES the particular Drawing of one side of the seat of the Colossal Figure markt A, in the former plate.

OF the Hieroglyphicks here represented, I have nothing to say, but that they are very neatly wrought and extremely well preserv'd; they are hollow'd into the stone with a flat bottom, only the two figures which draw the knot are workt in bas-relief, but in such a manner that their highest parts are only rais'd to the same height as the smooth superficies of the stone. I have already said, that the other sides of the seats are adorn'd in the same manner.

THE small figures in bas relief upon the towers, that the *Isiac* Statues above-mentioned carry on their heads, have not the appearance of *Egyptian* work, and are contrary to the rest rais'd above the surface of the stone.

THE several *Latin* inscriptions, and the *Greek* one, added to this plate, were copied from some of those that are on the legs of the Colossus markt *B*, in the first Plate.

As I copied these in great haste, being willing to lose as little time as I could from my drawing; I dare not answer for the greatest exactness in them, and for the *Greek* one, being in a language I do not understand, I doubt whether it may be found intelligible. I chose upon the whole rather to give them just as I took them, than to attempt the having them corrected.

The Third P L A T E

REPRESENTS more at large, what was seen at a distance in the first, and under the letters C, D, E, G, H, and I.

THE beautiful remains of the ancient building at C, are only represented here from their situation, so close to the other things I have now propos'd to give an idea of: for which reason, I omit any account of their fine disposition and architecture, as well as of the historical and other figures, and hieroglyphicks hollowed out and painted upon the walls; what I took notice of relating to them, will be specified some other time in another place.

THE Ruins markt D and E, I cannot pass over, since one of the * authors above quoted, seems to make mention of them in his account of *Memnon's* Temple.

THE

• *Philostratus de Vita Apollonii.*

THE four pillars at D, are built of the above-mention'd sandy stone, and consist of several pieces, as may be observ'd in the Plate. Each pillar has before it a sort of † *Terme* with cross'd arms, and holding a kind of hook in his right hand; their heads have been broke off, only there still remains part of the common *Egyptian* head-dress on the shoulders; the representations of somewhat like clubs over where the heads were, I have nothing to say to, only that I saw such there.

THREE great blocks of stone cover these four pillars, and the whole is covered with hieroglyphicks, hollowed into the stones and painted: those represented in the Drawing are only to shew there are such, for time did not allow me to take the particulars exactly.

AT, E, are four other pillars equal to the former, and adorn'd in the same manner; they face the others, and have behind them a wall now very ruinous, but which is yet partly joined to the Colonnade by large flat stones on the top, so that there must formerly have been a walk there shaded from the sun: and the Stone at D, which remains upon those covering the first mention'd four pillars, shows there was a like walk on that side also.

THE distance between the several pillars at D and at E, is too large to have been ever covered; whence it appears, that if this was the place where anciently the statue of *Memnon* stood, it must have been expos'd to the open air; which seems also most reasonable, as it was hereby more capable of receiving the rays of the sun.

AT, G, there remains a broken Colossus, overturn'd and half buried; by what remains, it may be judg'd to have been made sitting, and in the same attitude as those at A and B in the first plate. All the upper part is wanting, and seems to me to have been thrown off by violence, of which marks still remain: it has been all of a piece, and is of black granite marble, which is the hardest sort.

NOTHING but the pedestal, whose base presents it self in the Drawing, appears any ways preserv'd, upon which also may be seen some hieroglyphicks of knives, half rounds, &c. Otherwise the figure is so mutilated and spoilt, that

I

† *Terminus. Hermes.*

I could not take any exact measure, though to the best of my judgment, it must have been about twenty foot high, when it stood in its place.

FROM all these indications, this is what I take for the remains of the famous vocal Statue of *Memnon*, of which the several ancient authors above quoted have given their descriptions: But I leave the determination of the truth to those that are more learned than my self, if they shall think it worthy of their consideration.

I STRUCK the remains of this figure with a key, but being solid, it gave no other sound than any other block of Granite that rests firmly on the ground. The Sepulchral Chest in the first Pyramid, though it rests on its whole base, yet sounds like a bell: but it must be observ'd that that is hollow. Whether the stones of the wall of *Megara*, mention'd by *Pausanias*, were of this, or any other sort of stone, is not my business to enquire; but certain it is, that this massy piece of a Colossus, as I have said, would give no sound in its present situation.

A T, H, is another Colossus of one single piece of granite marble, but only of a middling height; it now lies on the face, and half buried in the ground: what appears, does not at all seem damaged, and the attitude is the same as that of the others, of which I have been speaking.

A T, I, is a very fine Colossal Head of black Granite, dress'd after the *Egyptian* manner. I measur'd it to be two foot long; the body must have been lost or cover'd by the sand, for there now remains nothing visible to which it could belong.

The Fourth P L A T E

EXHIBITS the Plan of the Ruins of that part of ancient *Thebes*; represented in the preceding Drawings.

A and B, are the two great Colossal Statues.

A T, C, are the Ruins of a Temple all cover'd with great stones, which are not here expressed, in order to shew the Columns that remain on the inside.

A T

A T, D, are the Pillars with the *Termes*, above describ'd in the third Plate.

A T, E, are the other Pillars of like make, with the wall behind them.

A T, H, lies the Colossus of granite marble, that is entire, but thrown down.

A T, G, lies the half of the great Colossus of black granite marble, thrown down and much defac'd, which I take for the remains of the Vocal Statue.

A T, I, is the Colossal Head, mentioned in the foregoing Plate.

